



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH, MENTAL RETARDATION AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES

JAMES S. REINHARD, M.D.
COMMISSIONER

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June 28, 2006

The Honorable John H. Chichester, Chairman
Senate of Virginia
P.O. Box 396
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Senator Chichester:

Pursuant to 2005 budget item 330-F the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services is required to submit a report on *A Policy and Plan to Provide and Improve Access to Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services for Children and Adolescents* by June 30th of each year.

This Budget item directs the DMHMRSAS and the Department of Medical Assistance Services, in cooperation with the Office of Comprehensive Services, Community Services Boards, Court Service Units and representatives from community policy and management teams representing various regions of the Commonwealth to develop an integrated policy and plan, including the necessary legislation and budget amendments to provide and improve access by children, including juvenile offenders, to mental health, substance abuse and mental retardation services. Each year the budget number changes for this report and to make sure we keep the stakeholders involved and focused, the Department is calling the committee charged with assisting the Department develop the plan and policy, Child and Family Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee.

This report details DMHMRSAS' activities for 2005-2006 to provide and improve access by children and their families to mental health, mental retardation and substance abuse services and includes recommendations for the 2006-2007 fiscal year.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding the attached report.

Sincerely,

James S. Reinhard, M.D.

The Honorable John H. Chichester

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Cc: The Honorable William C. Wampler, Jr.
The Honorable Marilyn Tavenner, Secretary of Health and Human Resources
The Honorable Phillip Hamilton
Steve Harms, Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Resources
Susan Massart
Joe Flores
Angie Murphy
Frank L. Tetrick, III
Shirley Ricks